Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The receiver of the spread spectrum communication system according to claim 2,~~ A receiver of a spread spectrum communication system comprising:

a plurality of despreading circuits for despreading a received signal having multipath components at predetermined timings allocated thereto;

a rake circuit for performing rake combining of despread signals output by the plurality of despreading circuits; and

a path searcher which forms a first window showing a part of a search range and calculates first delay profile data of said received signal in said first window to search an effective path, forms at least one second window in the search range other than said first window and calculates second delay profile data of said received signal in said second window, and detects timings at which said received signal is to be despread based on said calculated first and second delay profile data to allocate the detected timings to said plurality of despreading circuits;

wherein said path searcher forms a plurality of second windows including said at least one second window by dividing the search range except said first window to calculate said second delay profile data in respective second windows of said plurality of second windows in accordance with a predetermined order; and

wherein said path searcher is supplied with ~~a~~ peak position information from a peak position estimation circuit which performs rough estimation of a peak position of the ~~delay profile~~ received signal, and said path searcher sets ~~the~~ a center of said first window at a timing at which the peak position appears.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The receiver of the spread spectrum communication system according to claim 2,~~ A receiver of a spread spectrum communication system comprising:

a plurality of despreading circuits for despreading a received signal having multipath components at predetermined timings allocated thereto;

a rake circuit for performing rake combining of despread signals output by the plurality of despreading circuits; and

a path searcher which forms a first window showing a part of a search range and calculates first delay profile data of said received signal in said first window to search an effective path, forms at least one second window in the search range other than said first window and calculates second delay profile data of said received signal in said second window, and detects timings at which said received signal is to be despread based on said calculated first and second delay profile data to allocate the detected timings to said plurality of despreading circuits;

wherein said path searcher forms a plurality of second windows including said at least one second window by dividing the search range except said first window to calculate said second delay profile data in respective second windows of said plurality of second windows in accordance with a predetermined order; and

wherein said path searcher forms said plurality of second windows in only one of two areas ~~which interpose~~ having said first window interposed therebetween.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The receiver of the spread spectrum communication system according to claim 2,~~ A receiver of a spread spectrum communication system comprising:

a plurality of despreading circuits for despreading a received signal having multipath components at predetermined timings allocated thereto;

a rake circuit for performing rake combining of despread signals output by the plurality of despreading circuits; and

a path searcher which forms a first window showing a part of a search range and calculates first delay profile data of said received signal in said first window to search an effective path, forms at least one second window in the search range other than said first window and calculates second delay profile data of said received signal in said second

window, and detects timings at which said received signal is to be despread based on said calculated first and second delay profile data to allocate the detected timings to said plurality of despreading circuits;

wherein said path searcher forms a plurality of second windows including said at least one second window by dividing the search range except said first window to calculate said second delay profile data in respective second windows of said plurality of second windows in accordance with a predetermined order; and

wherein said path searcher forms said plurality of second windows in both of two areas ~~which interpose~~ having said first window interposed therebetween.

6.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The receiver of the spread spectrum communication system according to claim 2,~~ A receiver of a spread spectrum communication system comprising:

a plurality of despreading circuits for despreading a received signal having multipath components at predetermined timings allocated thereto;

a rake circuit for performing rake combining of despread signals output by the plurality of despreading circuits; and

a path searcher which forms a first window showing a part of a search range and calculates first delay profile data of said received signal in said first window to search an effective path, forms at least one second window in the search range other than said first window and calculates second delay profile data of said received signal in said second window, and detects timings at which said received signal is to be despread based on said calculated first and second delay profile data to allocate the detected timings to said plurality of despreading circuits;

wherein said path searcher forms a plurality of second windows including said at least one second window by dividing the search range except said first window to calculate said second delay profile data in respective second windows of said plurality of second windows in accordance with a predetermined order; and

wherein said path searcher forms two second windows as said plurality of second windows and alternately specifies said second window repeatedly, and said path searcher calculates said second delay profile data in the specified second windows.

7. – 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The path search method according to claim 8,~~ A path search method of a spread spectrum communication system comprising:

    receiving a signal having multipath components;

    forming a first window showing a part of a predetermined search range to search an effective path;

    calculating first delay profile data representing a delay profile of the received signal in the first window;

    forming at least one second window in the search range other than said first window;

    calculating second delay profile data representing a delay profile of the received signal in the second window; and

    detecting timing at which despreading of said received signal is to be performed based on the calculated first and second delay profile data;

    wherein said second window forming step includes forming a plurality of second windows including said at least one second window by dividing the search range except said first window;

    wherein said second delay profile data calculating step includes calculating said second delay profile data in respective second windows of said plurality of second windows in accordance with a predetermined order; and

    wherein the method further ~~comprising~~ comprises:

        performing rough estimation of ~~the~~ a particular delay profile of the received signal; and

        setting a center of the first window at a timing at which a roughly calculated peak position appears in the particular delay profile.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The path search method according to claim 8,~~ A path search method of a spread spectrum communication system comprising:

    receiving a signal having multipath components;

    forming a first window showing a part of a predetermined search range to search an effective path;

calculating first delay profile data representing a delay profile of the received signal in the first window;

forming at least one second window in the search range other than said first window;

calculating second delay profile data representing a delay profile of the received signal in the second window; and

detecting timing at which despreading of said received signal is to be performed based on the calculated first and second delay profile data;

wherein said second window forming step includes forming a plurality of second windows including said at least one second window by dividing the search range except said first window;

wherein said second delay profile data calculating step includes calculating said second delay profile data in respective second windows of said plurality of second windows in accordance with a predetermined order; and

wherein said plurality of second windows are formed in only one of two areas which interpose having said first window interposed therebetween.

11. (Currently Amended) The path search method according to claim 8, A path search method of a spread spectrum communication system comprising:

receiving a signal having multipath components;

forming a first window showing a part of a predetermined search range to search an effective path;

calculating first delay profile data representing a delay profile of the received signal in the first window;

forming at least one second window in the search range other than said first window;

calculating second delay profile data representing a delay profile of the received signal in the second window; and

detecting timing at which despreading of said received signal is to be performed based on the calculated first and second delay profile data;

wherein said second window forming step includes forming a plurality of second windows including said at least one second window by dividing the search range except said first window;

wherein said second delay profile data calculating step includes calculating said second delay profile data in respective second windows of said plurality of second windows in accordance with a predetermined order; and

wherein said plurality of second windows are formed in both of two areas which interpose having said first window interposed therebetween.

12.   (Currently Amended)   The path search method according to claim 8, wherein A path search method of a spread spectrum communication system comprising:

receiving a signal having multipath components;

forming a first window showing a part of a predetermined search range to search an effective path;

calculating first delay profile data representing a delay profile of the received signal in the first window;

forming at least one second window in the search range other than said first window;

calculating second delay profile data representing a delay profile of the received signal in the second window; and

detecting timing at which despreading of said received signal is to be performed based on the calculated first and second delay profile data;

wherein said second window forming step includes forming a plurality of second windows including said at least one second window by dividing the search range except said first window;

wherein said second delay profile data calculating step includes calculating said second delay profile data in respective second windows of said plurality of second windows in accordance with a predetermined order;

wherein said second window forming step forms two second windows as said plurality of second windows; and

wherein said second delay profile data calculating step alternately specifies the two second windows repeatedly, and calculates the second delay profile data with the specified second windows.